

# VIETNAM COURIER

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South Viet Nam

- \* NEW SHELLING OF SAIGON: TARGETS IN ADMINISTRATIVE QUARTERS AND HARBOUR HIT
- \* P.L.A.F. CONTINUE HAMMERING AT THE ENEMY IN TAY NINH, DUC LAP AND COASTAL PROVINCES IN CENTRAL TRUNG BO WHERE A SEVENTH ENEMY BATTALION WAS WIPE OUT

\* The P.L.A.F. Invest Thuong Duc, Southwest of Da Nang.

\* 14 Cargo-Boats, Tankers, Patrol-Boats and Barges Between Saigon and the Sea and 30 Other Craft in Ben Tre Province Sunk or Burnt.

October 7

1968

No 185

5th Year

North Viet Nam

IN SEPTEMBER

## 63 U.S. Planes Downed, Many U.S. Pilots Captured

A daily average of 2 American aircraft was downed during September. (11 in the first three days of the month), by North Viet Nam gunners, armymen and militiamen.

Quang Binh province topped the list with 22 planes grounded at Vinh Linh area, on the 17th. There were 16 aircraft and 8 MiGs. An province 15 in the same month.

On September 11, within two minutes A.A. batteries in Quang Binh brought down two *Phantoms*. The rural militia of that province recorded 5 kills, one of which was a *Phantom* on 24 rounds.

With 6 L-19 planes downed in September, Vinh Linh holds the record of spy-planes shot down.

In addition, in the same month the coastal defence of North Viet Nam twice hit war vessels from the Seventh Fleet.

Up to October 2, 1968

## 3.195 U.S. Aircraft Were Downed

## U.S. Distortion of Truth Only Brings Out the Justice of South Viet Nam People's Cause

A Giai Phong Press Agency commentary

Of late, at the official talks in Paris between the representative of the D.R.V.N. Government and that of the U.S. Government and elsewhere, the Johnson clique exerted itself to misrepresent the just resistance war of the South Vietnamese people against the U.S. aggressors for national salvation and helped cynical slanders on the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. The U.S. ruling circles are now carrying out the policy of making white black in an attempt to green their crime of aggression and deserve the American people and world public opinion. However, the aggressives, stubborn, brutal and perfidious, have been made more transparent by their own absurd contention and stubborn attitude in all the last 23 years since the Paris talks and their war intensification in both North and South Viet Nam.

It is common knowledge that since the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists have been pursuing the most

brutal policy of aggression unparalleled in history against the South Vietnamese people by launching first an armed intervention, then a "cold war" and now a local war. They have deployed a huge aggressive machine composed of 500,000 U.S. puppet and satellite troops, 100,000 U.S. marines, half of Viet Nam with a 14 million population. They have been using most up-to-date war weapons, including toxic chemicals, poison gas, napalm, phosphorus bombs and B-52 bombers and applying most barbarous methods of terror and satellite bombing to subdue the South Vietnamese. They impose this on the U.S. neocolonial rule, turn South Viet Nam into an American base and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam.

To oppose aggression and oppression is a sacred and inviolable right of any people. The Vietnamese people themselves rose up against the British colonialists for independence and freedom. For a long time, the Vietnamese who have a long tradition of unavoidable struggle against foreign aggression for national salvation and who have never accepted slavery, there is no alternative but to uncompromisingly persistently against U.S. aggression to save their country and their homes. The war of resistance which the South Vietnamese people have been conducting against U.S. aggression is precisely the continuation of the glorious age-old history of the Vietnamese people against foreign aggression that also the continuation at a higher level and with great creativity, of the Vietnamese people's traditional love for independence and freedom.

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P.L.A.F. men in action

(Continued page 2)

# U.S. DISTORTION OF TRUTH...

(Continued from page 4)

The South Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle, sharing with their brothers in the progressive trend of mankind and fully accords with the principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreement on National and International law. It aims at nothing other than defending and realizing their fundamental national rights against the U.S. aggressors, their lackeys and domination by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, and regaining independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

During the people's high tide of struggle, the South Vietnamese National Front for Liberation has rallied the overwhelming majority of South Vietnamese people of all strata, political tendencies, nationalities and religious beliefs for a sacred fight for the immediate task and objectives of the South Vietnamese people, "to win the South Vietnamese people's cause, defend the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression, overthrow their pupillage administration, establish a broad national democratic government, implement 'unification', an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Vietnam, and achieve a peaceful reunification of the country" (Political Programme of the N.F.L.)

Under the glorious banner of the N.F.L., the South Vietnamese people, genuinely cherishing comradeship and making immense sacrifices, fighting the enemy while rapidly building up their forces, have won the war and total war, and winning ever bigger victories. In the past 8 years, from 1959-1966, the nation-wide uprisings, the general offensive and widespread uprisings early this Spring, the South Vietnamese army, and people, achieving making an important use of the nation's diverse fighting experiences, have thwarted one after another military strategy tested and tactics of the whole U.S. imperialist ring-leader.

The U.S. and its puppets have been driven into an unprecedented predicament. They have lost 1,200,000 troops armed to the teeth with most modern war means, the U.S. and puppets, moreover, are compelled to switch from the "search-and-destroy" strategy to the "clear-and-hold" strategy which is far more difficult, digging in a more serious, intensive and passive position to receive heavy blows. In only 7 months from February to late August this year, in the course of offensives and widespread uprisings, the South Vietnamese army and people killed, wounded or captured over 400,000 troops, including more than 100,000 American and satellite troops destroyed a large quantity of war materials and equipment taken from the vast and heavily populated areas in the very vicinity of the towns.

The people's revolutionary power has been in the making in almost all hamlets and villages in the liberated zone and even at the district and provincial levels of the U.S. aggressors. The coming into being of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces marks a new step forward of patriotic and revolutionary forces in South Viet Nam. The nationwide bloc of solidarity against U.S. aggression for national salvation has grown stronger and broader than ever.

Along with these big and all-round victories, the prestige and influence of the N.F.L. has constantly consolidated and enhanced in the international arena. The puppets of all countries are siding with the South Vietnamese people, supporting the just and heroic struggle of the Front embodied in its Political Program, wholeheartedly assisting and strongly stimulating our people.

So far, the Front has opened diplomatic missions in 100 countries, sent over 100 delegations to important international conferences, become member of many international, are regional organizations, and international and semi-international organizations have sent hundreds of delegations on friendship visits to various countries. The due care and due fact recognition of the South Vietnamese National Front for Liberation by the world's peoples and many governments has spelled out still more surely the international status of the Front in the settlement of the South Viet Nam problem.

It is a patent fact that whether it is in Europe or America, in Asia or Africa, in a socialist or nationalist country, the U.S. aggressors, through their puppets, are unceasingly condoning the unjust and brutal war of aggression waged by the U.S. and its satellites. Let us also recall that the U.S. aggressors will be overthrown and wiped out by the Vietnamese people.

With a sound political and military line, a nation-wide bloc of solidarity, a strong determination to fight and to win, the N.F.L. is applying to the U.S. Government, so that other problems of interest to the two sides can be discussed.

Speaking next, D.R.V.N. Minister of State Xuan Thuy produced further proof to the U.S. aggressor that he had been deceived by the "clear-and-hold" assistance of the compatriots in North Viet Nam, and support and encouragement given to them, which was bound to fail. He organized the war of resistance of the 14 million South Vietnamese people, and let it from one big victory to another.

By trying to willfully ignore the South Vietnamese people's national salvation war of resistance, to stamp up their henchmen — the Saigon puppet clique — into their main force and on the verge of complete disintegration, the Johnson clique have again made a fiasco, such as the "Tet Offensive".

Moreover by doing so they have further revealed their incapacity to control the bitter internal contradictions of their neo-colonial aggression in South Viet Nam. The Saigon puppets from the past to the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique at present are nothing

but instruments in the hands of the U.S. aggressors. Many members of the N.F.L. and its affiliated organizations themselves have conceded that the Saigon puppet regime could not last more than a day without the U.S. support in dollars, weapons and troops.

Now that more than half a million troops of the aggressors have failed to save the U.S. policy of aggression in South Viet Nam, the only hope that the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of traitors can do anything better for their "independence", "constitutionality", "representativeness", "equality", "democracy", "freedom", "independence", "sovereignty", "reciprocity", "mutual respect", "non-aggression", "no interference in each other's internal affairs, we shall continue to fight till final victory."

"The U.S. aggressor's failure is left in no doubt. The only way for Johnson and his cohorts to save face is to admit defeat. Let it also be a stern warning to the Johnson clique.

This is our army and people's position whose justice is dazzlingly obvious. That is the truth. Let it be known that the U.S. aggressor will be overthrown and wiped out by the Vietnamese people.

## PARIS TALK'S 24th SESSION

THE 24th session of the official D.R.V.N.—U.S. talks took place in Paris, on October 2.

Taking the floor first, U.S. representative A. Harriman again rang the changes on his "North Vietnamese aggression against South Viet Nam" theme and made fresh efforts to dull up the Thieu Ky puppet regime's justify the U.S. bombing of the Dem-Dien area, unceasingly condemning the unjust and brutal war of aggression waged by the U.S. and its satellites. He insisted that the U.S. claim for "reciprocity" and to explain away its unwillingness to meet the demands of the D.R.V.N. legitimate demand for an immediate and unconditional cessation-to-the bombing and all other acts of war by the U.S. on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N., so that other problems of interest to the two sides can be discussed.

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He recalled that on September 30, 1968, under the pressure of public opinion, Vice-President Hubert Humphrey, the presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, had to declare that the bombing of North Viet Nam must be stopped in order to bring the present talk to fruition, which would constitute the best protection for U.S. troops. "But the same Mr. Humphrey", Mr. Xuan Thuy added, "said thereafter: 'Before taking action, I would place my importance on

evidence, direct or indirect by deed or word, of communist willingness to restore the demilitarized zone between North and South Viet Nam'." This means that Mr. Humphrey, like Mr. Johnson, still demands "reciprocity". Moreover, he even threatened to stop the bombing of North Viet Nam. As regards Mr. Humphrey's warlike pamphlet, the president of the United States, he will certainly fail unless he finds a sound solution to the problem on the basis of the respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights. If the United States puts off the unconditional halt of the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. it will be held responsible for the Paris conference's lack of progress. If the United States is bent on pursuing its war of aggression, it will only sustain heavier defeats. The Vietnamese people as a whole, in the North as well as in the South, are determined, no matter what may be the cost, to wrest back real independence and peace."

Concerning the allegation made by the U.S. representative at the previous session that the Vietnamese people and the D.R.V.N. Government were challenging international law and the norms of international beha-

viour, the D.R.V.N. envoy said:

"In fact, it is precisely the U.S. Government which has been flouting all norms of international law with its unwarranted attacks against the D.R.V.N., an independent and sovereign country. It has also violated the U.S. Constitution with the committing of over half a million U.S. troops to an aggression against the D.R.V.N. Neither international law nor any norm of international behaviour would permit a big power such as the United States to deploy its huge war machinery against a much smaller country such as Viet Nam, which is thousands of miles away from the United States and which has never done any harm to it."

The Vietnamese representative went on to declare: "We repeat once more that we shall not agree to any kind of reciprocity". Who will be the next president of the United States, he will certainly fail unless he finds a sound solution to the problem on the basis of the respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights. If the United States puts off the unconditional halt of the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. it will be held responsible for the Paris conference's lack of progress. If the United States is bent on pursuing its war of aggression, it will only sustain heavier defeats. The Vietnamese people as a whole, in the North as well as in the South, are determined, no matter what may be the cost, to wrest back real independence and peace."

In the process of fulfilling the two tasks of higher and vocational education, namely to train large numbers of scientific, technical and economic management cadres who are highly professional and competent in their respective specialties, and to promote the role of the school as a cultural, scientific and technical center, great lessons have been drawn:

their aggression, their attacks will prove. Their increasing, pernicious and deceitful manoeuvres, will only further exacerbate popular festing and shake more right on their nature."

No brutality and absurdity, nor any foolishness of the Johnson clique can change the sweeping advance of the sacred cause of resistance of the South Vietnamese people under the leadership of the N.P.L."

As pointed out by Lawyer Tran Van Huong, the Director of the pretensions of the Central Committee of the South Vietnamese N.P.L. at the meeting marking the 20th anniversary of the N.P.L. and of the South Vietnamese people's cause, "the U.S. imperialists refuse to end their war of aggression. The Viet Nam workers and soldiers are the only ones who can end the U.S. finance and economy". As a result, the difficulties of U.S. finance and economy will increase, and the U.S. aggressor will have to stand up more and more determinedly against the Johnson clique.

"This is our army and people's position whose justice is dazzlingly obvious. That is the truth. Let it be known that the U.S. aggressor will be overthrown and wiped out by the Vietnamese people.

VIET NAM COURIER

## THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

### Higher and Middle Vocational Education Makes Headway During Anti-U.S. Resistance

by TA QUANG BUU  
Minister of Higher and Middle Vocational Education

OVER the past three years, in spite of the fierce war of destruction by the American aggressors, the training and fostering of scientific, technical and economic management cadres in North Viet Nam has been progressing at a steady rate.

The Viet Nam Workers' Party and the D.R.V.N. Government have mapped out many concrete policies in this connection. With a view to meeting the requirements of the resistance to American aggression, for national salvation, and of national construction, present and future, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has pointed out in a resolution:

"In face of the new situation and the new tasks, not only should the training and fostering of scientific, technical and economic management cadres be not reduced, but it should be strongly developed so as to eventually satisfy the needs in cadres of the whole country."

In implementation of the above-mentioned resolution, higher and vocational education has to fulfil two great tasks: to continue to expand the training and fostering of cadres at a quick and steady tempo; and to continue to raise the quality of the training even while the country is at war.

#### EXPANDING THE TRAINING OF CADRES

Viet Nam being a backward agricultural country advancing

to socialism without passing

through the stage of capitalist development and having to resist a war of aggression of unprecedented ferocity, the training of cadres should be undertaken on a large scale, at a quick tempo, and one step ahead of the present needs. Abiding by this principle, during the past three years thirteen more universities and university branches, and over 40 secondary vocational schools have been opened. At present there are in the North 38 universities and colleges and 281 secondary vocational schools. In 1967-1968, student enrolment in these schools increased two times compared with the 1966-1967 school year, and the number of university, college students and graduates sent to the socialist countries for further training went up 2.8 times over the same period.

Not only has training been undertaken on an ever extending scale but remarkable achievements have been recorded in realizing an ever better balance between schools of various degrees, between various branches, between theory and practice, and between theoretical and practical training.

These are now nearly 200 centers of university education. A network of secondary vocational schools have been set up, from central down to local level. At the centre, there are groups of technical and professional schools; regional establishments include teachers' training schools, medical, engineering and agricultural schools.

This development of large-scale training is fully in keeping with the policy regarding cadres. In 1967-1968, the proportion of girl students in the universities and 45% in the secondary vocational schools; 96% of the students come from poor families, and all the families of the national minorities, as well as workers, cadres, and members of Young Volunteers' Brigades with big combat and production records.

Besides regular education, on-the-job training allows cadres, workers and peasants to study while carrying on their normal occupations. Secondary vocational and college-level schools and classes have been opened in growing numbers within factories, offices and other enterprises.

With a view to creating even more favourable conditions for study and teaching over the past years, the Government has been taking many measures, such as: the 1966-1967 school year, granting scholarships to all students in universities, colleges and secondary vocational schools.

#### CEASELESSLY RAISING THE QUALITY OF TRAINING

In trying to meet the requirements, we have already encountered difficulties: material and personnel, and shortage of qualified personnel. These have greatly increased with the war. But guided by the correct line of the Party, the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the cadres, teachers, and students in all schools have made tremendous efforts, thereby maintaining and even upgrading in some respects the quality of the training. Many improvements have been made in the teaching methods, and the educational and scientific research work has also been improved: 70% of the subjects of research deal with themes related to production, combat and life in accordance with the conditions of the locality. Over the past years, scientific research work has stuck to the targets of economic development, actively served production, combat and life, while making preparations to serve long-term tasks. The quality of the work of scientific research work has also been improved: 70% of the subjects of research deal with themes related to production, combat and life. Some have achieved good results: "Railway signal system", "electrical power generation", "construction casting of cast iron pipes", "Istensive rice cultivation in Thai Binh province", "How high rice output is achieved", "The use of intensive cultivation", "Labour in rural areas in the new situation".

Another factor which has a bearing on the quality of study and teaching over the past years has been the progress achieved in scientific research work. The Civil Engineering College sent the whole Building department to construction sites where the students applied the theories learnt to practical work.

The great significance and effect of this mode of training has been borne out by facts: the overall quality of training has been improved, training time has been reduced, training improved in production and combat, and the quality of their teaching and research work has been improved. It is also thanks to the same method that a close combination has been achieved between training and scientific research in educating cadres in fostering cadres who are both politically staunch and professionally proficient and who can meet the expectations of the departments employing them.

While carrying into effect the educational principles and rules, the main task of the school is to raise the pride of the students for political and ideological education, using it as a lever to push other work forward and as a basis for raising the quality of professional training.

In order to fulfill this task, the following work has been done:

1. To make the educational work done to the quality of political and ideological education, in carrying out the tasks of the school, to train the cadres who are politically staunch and professionally proficient in their respective specialties, and to promote the role of the school as a cultural, scientific and technical center, great lessons have been drawn:

Party's educational principles and rules: education should serve the political tasks, and be closely coordinated with production. Production should go hand in hand; school education should be combined with social education.

In the 1966-1967 academic year, the Polytechnic College sent over one thousand student groups for work and study in state-owned enterprises and construction sites in 10 provinces. The Agricultural College sent its 4th-year students to agricultural cooperatives where they carried on their studies while giving services to the people. The Civil Engineering College sent the whole Building department to construction sites where the students applied the theories learnt to practical work.

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3. Another factor of great importance for the quality of all-sided training is the organization of the school. The decisive element is to build a strong Party organization and ensure all-sided and absolute leadership of the Party over the school. The Party should regard all school work. The role of such mass organizations as the trade-union and the Labour Youth should be promoted. Constant attention has been paid to the participation of all masses within the school with a view to organizing life and participating in the management of all school activities.

A stirring atmosphere has thus been created in study and teaching which has made it possible over the past three years to improve hundreds of programmes and curriculums in accordance with the motto: *fundamental, Vietnamese, and modern*. In face of difficulties born of wartime conditions, teachers and students have developed their spirit of self-sacrifice and creative endeavour. This is the orientation spirit underlying the reorientation of education, and also the gist of the Viet Nam Workers'

the students. The latter have shown the greatest courage and a keen desire to serve the revolution to the maximum. The students and students feel mutual affection for one another, so much so that relations between them take on a comradely and fraternal character, which reflects the consolidation and perfection of the production relations in society. This is an important factor in bettering the quality of school work.

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THE coming to maturity of higher and secondary vocational education over the past years is due to the resolve shown by cadres, teachers and students in carrying out in effect, in a creative manner and with great success, the line and policies of the Viet Nam Workers' Party concerning the training and fostering of scientific, technical and economic management cadres. The school has thus actively contributed to supplying the revolution with cadres for all-sided building and development: agriculture, industry, culture, education, and national defence.

# MORE U.S. CRIMES IN BOTH PARTS OF VIET NAM

**A**T the current Paris talks between the representatives of the D.R.V.N. government and that of the U.S. government, Harriman and Vance uttered such bombastic exhortations as "Stop this senseless slaughter!" and "Join with us in steps to reduce the level of violence." "We remain ready to create conditions of peace." "We are prepared to act to bring peace," etc. But the U.S. government and its troops' deeds in September proved that the calls were sheer double-talk.

## WAR OBSCURATELY STEPPED UP BY U.S. GOVERNMENT

**O**N September 30, 1966, the battleship *New Jersey* was sent to the Bac Bo Gulf to perpetrate crime against civilians in the southern part of the D.R.V.N., together with other units of the Seventh Fleet. The American admiral who spoke boasted that this 55,000-ton ship was the most powerful in the U.S. Navy, equipped with 16-inch guns which could fire 2,700-lb shells 23 miles off and that the quantity of

shells fired within a few minutes by g of its cannons equalled half a big bombardment.

Prior to the commissioning of that battleship, on Sept. 17, under pressure from the U.S., the Australian Navy had let it know that its destroyer *Pearl* would leave Sydney on September 19 for the Bac Bo Gulf to replace the *Hobart* heavily damaged by mistake by the U.S.A.F. in mid-June.

On September 24, General Mac Connell, commanding the U.S.A.F., declared that the swing-wing *F111*—three pieces of which had been brought down in Viet Nam—would operate again in the sky of the D.R.V.N.

Most remarkable was the fact that U.S. Engineering Battalion N° 116 just called up five months ago was sent on Sept. 13 to the northern part of Viet Nam. This illustrated the difficulties encountered by U.S. authorities in finding cannon-fodder for the Viet Cong. So, the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing of North Viet Nam and a settlement based on the 1954 Geneva Agreements, including the pulling out of all foreign troops.

He handed to Ambassador Ha Van Lau a copy of the statement of the British Council for Peace in Viet Nam urging immediate withdrawal by the British government from its support of U.S. intervention in Viet Nam, unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing of North Viet Nam and a settlement based on the 1954 Geneva Agreements, including the pulling out of all foreign troops.

## U.S. TROOPS' NEW MASSACRES

**T**HE most barbarous crime committed by the U.S. imperialists in the northern part of Viet Nam was the massacre of over 360 civilians in the massacre of Long Thanh village, just east of Saigon, on the Saigon-Tuy Hwy.

On the night of Sept. 22, American planes destroyed Long Thanh with bombs, rockets, incendiary powder and flame-throwers. Cannons from Nuoc Trong base also pounded it. This resulted in 77 cases of death and 120 cases of injuries of puppet troops and civil servants of the puppet administration. On Sept. 23, people from other localities were denied entry into the area to rescue the victims, with a view to concealing the crime and to shifting the blame for this killing onto the Liberation fighters. The American General Truong said that the Liberation soldiers could not possibly commit such a crime at the air. People around Nuoc Trong base also affirmed that American ordnance pieces there boomed for ten hours running in the night were responsible for the deaths of the 360 Long Thanh villagers. Compared with the destruction by armoured vehicles of Tru Thanh village, Bang Lang province, go km north of Saigon, on August 9, the massacre at Long Thanh

was much more heinous.

Another monstrous crime of the Americans in South Viet Nam was committed from Sept. 3 to 8, when they took advantage of the big flood in the provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien to kill many people, among them women and children, lost their property. In these villages of Phu Trach district, when the waters were rising and submerging even roofs of houses and trees, dozens of amphibious cars rushed in while 48 choppers circled overhead firing down like hell. In Huong Tai district during the flood, enemy helicopters strafed the people busily harvesting rice in their fields near their belongings. In a locality near Huong Cai city, the enemy turned to account the difficulties caused by floods and rounded up 300 victims of the disaster.

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On behalf of the French peace militants, Charles Fourneau, who had visited Viet Nam, appealed to the U.S. imperialists to stop the massacres in Viet Nam. Referring to the Paris talks, he made it clear that the present standstill of the talks was due to the fact that the U.S. still refused to stop the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. He pointed out that it was the duty of the world's peoples to press on with their cause of action.

Speaking at the rally, Ambassador Ha Van Lau recalled the process of the U.S. wrecking the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and of U.S. war of aggression against Viet Nam.

He denounced the U.S. government's willfulness at the Paris conversations and criticized the British government's support of U.S. aggression in Viet Nam.

According to a report from Saigon, University Professor Ly Chanh Trung, one of the speakers, openly voiced the Saigon intelligentsia's profound indignation at the U.S. crime of aggression, and condemned U.S. floating of all democratic liberties in South Viet Nam.

He said: "As a Vietnamese, I can no longer remain indifferent to the destruction

bombed dyke No 42 at Nam Dan, the dyke at Hung Phu and many dams and sluices in Nghe An province. It blasted away 800 cm.s. of earth, and in the second they wrecked a portion of dyke. As the people were mending the dykes, they came back and inflicted on them over 30 casualties.

Another crime of the aggressors was the intensified use of B52 strategic bombers. On Sept. 17 and 20, these planes flew 64 sorties and dropped 1,000 tons of bombs on four villages in Vinh Linh area, killing and wounding 28 people despite a system of solid shelters.

From April 1966 onwards, the enemy has been concentrating his strikes on this "panhandle" area of the D.R.V.N. at a stepped up tempo while his target remained the same: communication line, populated areas (market places, schools, hospitals, churches and pagodas, industrial and agricultural enterprises, hydroelectric powerplants, etc.).

On September 24, General Mac Connell, commanding the U.S.A.F., declared that the swing-wing *F111*—three pieces of which had been brought down in Viet Nam—would operate again in the sky of the D.R.V.N.

Most remarkable was the fact that U.S. Engineering Battalion N° 116 just called up five months ago was sent on Sept. 13 to the northern part of Viet Nam. This illustrated the difficulties encountered by U.S. authorities in finding cannon-fodder for the Viet Cong. So, the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing of North Viet Nam and a settlement based on the 1954 Geneva Agreements, including the pulling out of all foreign troops.

On behalf of the French peace militants, Charles Fourneau, who had visited Viet Nam, appealed to the U.S. imperialists to stop the massacres in Viet Nam. Referring to the Paris talks, he made it clear that the present standstill of the talks was due to the fact that the U.S. still refused to stop the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. He pointed out that it was the duty of the world's peoples to press on with their cause of action.

Speaking at the rally, Ambassador Ha Van Lau recalled the process of the U.S. wrecking the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and of U.S. war of aggression against Viet Nam.

He denounced the U.S. government's willfulness at the Paris conversations and criticized the British government's support of U.S. aggression in Viet Nam.

According to a report from Saigon, University Professor Ly Chanh Trung, one of the speakers, openly voiced the Saigon intelligentsia's profound indignation at the U.S. crime of aggression, and condemned U.S. floating of all democratic liberties in South Viet Nam.

He said: "As a Vietnamese, I can no longer remain indifferent to the destruction

## British and French Peace Fighters Keep Day of Solidarity with Viet Nam

**A** day of solidarity with the Vietnamese people was observed on Sept. 22 at Boulogne-sur-mer, a town in northern France.

It was sponsored by the British Council for Peace in Viet Nam, which launched a campaign for the formation of a delegation of the British people to meet the Vietnamese representatives at the D.R.V.N.—U.S. talks, after the British government refused entry visa to the latter.

In response to this initiative, the Kent branch of the British Peace Council and the Pas-de-Calais branch of the French Peace Council decided to organize a demonstration at the British Embassy in Paris.

The two British delegates to the solidarity rally were Jack Woddles, member of the Political Bureau of the British Communist Party Central Committee, Lord Brockway, Chairman of the British Council for Peace in Viet Nam, and C. Jenkins, Secretary General of the British Union's Scientific and Technical Staffs. The French delegation included Charles Fourneau, member of the French National Council of the Peace Movement, and Raymond, Central Committee member of the French Communist Party.

The Vietnamese delegates included Ambassador Ha Van Lau who represented Minister of State Xuan Thuy, chief negotiator of the D.R.V.N. Government at the Paris talks.

Taking the floor on the occasion, C. Jenkins said: "Viet Nam belongs to the Vietnamese. We recognize this and recognize you as the true representatives of the

## SAIGON TEACH-IN CONDEMNS U.S. AGGRESSION

**W**HAT do we want peace?" was the theme of a teach-in held on September 8 at the headquarters of the Saigon Students' Union and attended by more than 300 intellectuals, students, clergymen and Buddhist priests.

Speaking at the rally, Ambassador Ha Van Lau expressed thanks to the British and French peoples for their support to the struggle of the Vietnamese people, stressing that it was a great inspiration for them.

# Our True Saigon

*Editor's note. — Among those who have tried to depict the extraordinary heroism of P.L.A.F. men during their attacks on Saigon and the intelligence and resourcefulness shown by the city people in helping them destroy the enemy, besides the well-known writers of the N.F.L., there have been many honest authors living in the city itself.*

*The following has been published in the review *Rugoi Viet*, organ of the Saigon "Writers and Artists for Democracy and Peace", in its issue of May 1968.*

**S**AIGON on former occasions had been fired and dazed by these tremendous explosions which severed the aircraft carrier *Card*, the American *USS Bon Homme Richard*, the British *Caravelle* and *Victor*, hotels, the puppet General Police Headquarters, the American *Consulate*, the *Independence Palace* and *Thong Nhat* avenue during military parades.

But nothing equals the enthusiasm and surprise which came to her people during the recent attacks which ended on the night of Tet, continued well beyond Tet, for the whole month. From the first, spectators and Saigon witnessed, with a sigh: a sight: dozens, hundreds, of G.I. bodies lying in the streets and among them not one body but five, ten at a time set afire or blown up.

It was as though Saigon were living the days of April 1945. Red smoke, red-looking fire, puppet flags littered the ground like dead leaves in autumn, for our comrades died fighting.

Saigon dreamt had come true: now the people could hunt down cruel agents of the enemy, try them in people's courts, and greet the founders of the independence movement, workers, preachers and handmaids.

Never before had Saigon had such a close view of American demons at work: their presence had so far been hidden behind the thick walls of depravity at most with police round-ups, jails crammed with prisoners; they had reserved death and destruction for anti-war fighters. Cu Cui Zone, the Mekong delta, the High Plateaux, the Demarcation line. But now Saigon, the *Binh Co*, An Giang, Co Thiep, Phu Co, An Giang, Go Vap, Binh Hoa...

The enemy, in defiance of home and world opinion, have arrested无数的 people, until the jails overflowed. They have desecrated our revolutionary cadres and fighters, our compatriots, setting at nought all legality. The cry uttered by Le Tri Thanh, the representative of the Saigon people, when she brought her to Hong Bang road together with a number of other revolutionaries and murdered them there, that cry carried the enemy who had been in our cities in the history of Saigon, of the South, of our entire nation...

Ly Chanh Trung pointed out: "The Americans claim to be 'defenders of freedom'. But in fact they have been defending regimes that trample upon freedom. When these regimes collapse or fall on account of their own rottenness and impotence, the Americans try to 'defend freedom' by dropping millions of tons of bombs on the land of Viet Nam and by pumping streams of dollars into the South Viet Nam society."

There were Saigon people who served as guides, some of you who stayed along Saigon streets on Lunar New Year's Day. But that night they were entrusted guns and allowed to join the heroes' ranks: they themselves became true heroes that remain.

A poor city girl, who earned a living carrying water, joined a P.L.A.F. unit to help her them in any way they would see fit: cooking, laying roadblocks, keeping the fighting communists... Later she turned out to be an extremely intelligent and resourceful com-

bantant. The enemy had thought P.L.A.F. units were mostly composed of highly-trained Special Task action groups. Not so! They were revolutionaries. But in fact they are made up of masses of revolutionaries from right inside Saigon who, within a matter of hours, have achieved tremendous feats.

The whole population machine of the city had been put in motion with a view to subduing the image of P.L.A.F. combatants, who were represented as ravenous plunderers or pitiful country bumpkins.

But their true image had been in the mind of the Saigon people. They had given all their love and affection, who stand ready at all times to devote all they have, even their lives, to protect them.

Let me recall here stories known to all Saigon people.

A Saigon woman, operating in a city block, was looking for night quarters. Hardly had a man knocked on a door when another not far away opened, a modest thatch-roofed cottage. A woman called to him, inviting him in. As he came up to her she added aloud, "Are you from the police, Mister? Want to search my house?" The P.L.A.F. man who was with her said, "No, we're not from the troops." But the woman, once he was in, smiled and said, "We know, we know. We've been expecting you all the time. Please call your unit."

Such warm welcomes were extended to P.L.A.F. men and women everywhere, in humble cottages and also in many luxurious villas, and among revolutionaries and their families.

Such a scene had been repeated in the fourth floor of the American embassy through rooms and corridors strown with American bodies. They had been trying to break up the security forces, to kill the staff, to burn up all their ammunition, to capture the building, to use it as a substitute.

As for the unsual value shown by the P.L.A.F. men and women, their previous experience and resources, only brick, concrete, iron and steel, if they could speak the human language, they could speak the language of the revolutionaries.

Details about the miraculoous events that happened on the night of January 31, 1968, and the following days for the resistance of the units serving the way to the *Independence Palace* to Nguyen Du street: they kept firing to their last cartridge, they fought to the bitter end, hit walls, half-finished concrete structures; only brick and iron witnessed their astounding exploits.

Indeed, yes! P.L.A.F. men and women, have struck panic into the enemy's hearts. But their fight grows when they learn that many of you are not fighters; your faces are familiar to them. They have been around so long in Ben Thanh market, whether you came from Tri Thien, Nam, Nghe or from the North, whether you had had a past in rubber plantations forty years ago or had been herded south only in 1954.

There were Saigon people who served as guides, some of you who stayed along Saigon streets on Lunar New Year's Day. But that night they were entrusted guns and allowed to join the heroes' ranks: they themselves became true heroes that remain.

A poor city girl, who earned a living carrying water, joined a P.L.A.F. unit to help her them in any way they would see fit: cooking, laying roadblocks, keeping the fighting communists... Later she turned out to be an extremely intelligent and resourceful com-

of goods to build combat positions. As the fight continued, they moved out of the area when morning came, but never far away. They had to stay and fight by the side of the P.L.A.F. men. So did another Navy man, his friend and neighbour, also home on leave.

Another P.L.A.F. unit found itself in a residential section, mainly inhabited by families. An engagement occurred that night, with U.S.-puppet troops trying to surround the house. The doors remained closed. Yet when they had slowly stormed in on their hinges, and people sneaked out, bringing coffee and breakfast to the revolutionaries. The wounded were carried inside and given medical treatment.

Towards noon, the P.L.A.F. unit was living, having behind a fence a group of women snipers. The enemy ordered everybody out, for them to come in and to annihilate "Vinh Cong". All the people, including many mothers of the block, two snipers, having used up all their ammunition, stood hesitantly by. Immediately, several pairs of hands drew them into the safety of the room. The puppet officials and families and put babies into their arms. The P.L.A.F. women thus safely made their way out.

Such is our Saigon, our true Saigon, the Saigon of rich and poor Saigoners, of the Saigon of the girl waiters, of the Saigon in humbly thatched cottage, and also of that draper's family. Among the revolutionaries who streamed into Saigon were many of its former inhabitants.

Such is our Saigon, for many years had been spoiled by the half-riff-raff spawned by the French colonial regime. Then that old wizard in a gaudy hat with fifty stars came and established his city. But the sound of the Tet gunfire has conjured away all demons from Saigon, restoring it to its true state: a precious pearl.

\* Labouring people's quarters heavily damaged by U.S. bombing and strafing.



*The fuel depot at Nha Be (Saigon) set afire by P.L.A.F. men.*

# VIET NAM AND THE WORLD AT LARGE

"The peoples of our two countries are bound by time-honored relations of friendship. The revolutionary struggles of the peoples of our two countries against imperialism and for socialism have contributed greatly to the development of their relations on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism."

"In their past resistance against the French, colonialists and U.S. imperialists, the revolutionaries of socialism in North Viet Nam are in resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, the Vietnamese people have always enjoyed the wholehearted support and sympathy of the Chinese people. We take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to the Communist Party of China, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the fraternal Chinese people for that vigorous support and valuable assistance."

"In the interests of the peoples of our two countries and the revolutionary cause of people throughout the world, the Vietnamese people, the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the National Assembly and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam are determined to make all out efforts to consolidate and further strengthen the fraternal friendship and militant solidarity between Viet Nam and China."

"May the fraternal friendship and militant solidarity between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples last for ever!"

(Extracts from the message sent by President Ho Chi Minh, National Assembly Standing Committee Chairman Truong Chinh and D.P.V.N. Premier Pham Van Dong to C.P.C. Central Committee Chairman Hua Kuo-ping, Vice-Chairman Lin Piao and C.P.R. Premier Chen En Lai.)

## People's China's National Day Observed in Hanoi

A grand meeting was held on September 29 in Hanoi to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Republic for the history of China's revolutionary struggle and the world's forces of socialism, national independence, democracy and peace.

Ton Qiang Phiet warmly praised the brilliant achievement of the Chinese people in rapidly turning China into a powerful socialist country endowed with a modern agricultural, industrial, scientific, defence, science and technology. China has successfully produced atomic and hydrogen weapons as well as the means of nuclear delivery.

He laid stress on the important international role of the People's Republic of China, a close friend of the oppressed peoples who has constantly been supporting and assisting them in their fight against imperialism headed by the U.S. for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

Many talks were given in Hanoi on the successes scored by China in the economic, scientific and technical fields;

An exhibition on the People's Republic of China opened here under the auspices of the D.P.V.N. Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. Chinese films were shown on Hanoi screens.

### IN THE UNITED STATES

## NEW ANTI-U.S. VIET NAM WAR PROTESTS

FOREIGN sources said that over 15,000 people in Chicago had staged on September 21 a massive demonstration against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and repression of the people of the liberated zone. Guerrillas in Hongsa district, Sayaburi province, Laos, had organized a protest rally to denounce the "mobs" of demonstrators who had reportedly beaten up some 100 persons.

The Laotian armed forces seized 900 weapons of various kinds, including 36 mortars, recoilless rifles or bazookas and 100 anti-aircraft guns, 42 radio transmitters and other war supplies.

They also shot down 23 U.S. planes and destroyed 3 military vehicles.

The Lao Ngan district capital and scores of villages were then reorganized into the front-line areas.

To make up for their heavy losses in the last dry season, the U.S. imperialists and their stooges in Laos in the said area made large-scale frantic nibbling actions against the areas they had lost in the last rainy season, such as Muong Bo, Muong Boi, Sanchom, Muong Boi, Muong Bo (Khammouane province), Phoulan (Khammouane province) and others in Upper Laos. At

the same time, they raised the bombing level, smuggled arms and supplies into the free zone for sabotage, conducted "sweeps" to massacre civilians, forcibly recruit young men into their puppet army and "pacify" the areas under their control.

In fighting off the enemy nibbling raids on Muong Bo, Sanchom, Muong Boi and in July and August, the patriotic armed forces in the said areas won many successes, killing them 4 U.S. "advisors" 343, 343 captured and 185 who surrendered.

According to incomplete statistics, the patriotic armed forces in the period under review, wiped out 1,353 enemy, killed 1,353, wounded 1,353, captured 1,353, killed (among them 4 U.S. "advisors") 343, 343 captured and 185 who surrendered.

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the same time, they raised the bombing level, smuggled arms and supplies into the free zone for sabotage, conducted "sweeps" to massacre civilians, forcibly recruit young men into their puppet army and "pacify" the areas under their control.

Among the demonstrators were many who were marching, shouting, displaying posters demanding the cessation of U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and condemning the fascist acts.

In the flush of their fresh victories, the patriotic armed forces are emulating one another in recording more brilliant victories.

VIET NAM COURIER

## CULTURE IN A SAD PLIGHT IN SOUTH VIET NAM ENEMY-occupied AREAS

PARALLEL to the intensification of their war of aggression, the American imperialists and their vassals are disseminating a foul, seething culture in areas still under their occupation in South Viet Nam.

In its issue of August 12, 1968, *Chinh Luu*, a reactionary paper in Saigon, carried an article entitled "Cultural tragedy in South Viet Nam" in which sour complaint was voiced about the disgraceful condition of culture under the U.S.-puppet regime, a condition which has become alien from the national tradition. The article was very bitter about the Saigon puppet regime's "boasting about our 4,000-year old culture" but "never seeking to understand it" and "never lifting a finger to do something about it", while the North has been making such tremendous efforts in the cultural field that as the *puppets* *do* have good reasons to feel awed!

The article continued:

"It is a pity to see that the north has been very active in the cultural field ever since 1954. An explicit policy has been worked out and the State sponsors and supplies abundant means for the building of national culture. (...) A Ministry of Culture has been functioning all along these years and has had at its disposal large amounts of funds for cultural construction. Writers and artists are grouped together according to their lines and research associations have been founded (for instance the Association for Historical and Geographic Research) which work out plans and exert themselves without let-up to complete important works."

"The language and script have been standardized. This standardization, which goes back a dozen years, is a good basis for cultural development according to a pre-chartered course.

"History and geography are the objects of careful studies. North Viet Nam's researchers have been scouring China for historical vestiges related to Viet Nam. At the same time they have been after literary relics. For instance: documents related to Nguyen Du's trips in China.

"In the literary field, North Vietnamese scholars have elaborated new glosses for all classical works. All authors familiar to South Vietnamese students have been carefully re-studied in the North.

"North Vietnam's cultural workers have also been carrying out extensive archaeological investigations.

"They have not neglected the dissemination of their works abroad. Recently, South Viet Nam journalists and politicians stepping over in Hanoi to visit a workshop selling North Vietnamese publication. They were amazed by the cultural wealth of North Viet Nam when seeing that the materials covered all fields, including literature, history and geography.

Meanwhile, the only productions coming out of South Viet Nam are pornographic novels, cheap love stories, plagiarized whodunits.

"Let South Viet Nam not be confused by the slogan 'telling our culture'. We must find what we have done absolutely nothing, that we have not made the least effort in this field."

"Indeed, the South just ignores the cultural problem. No book, no regional newspaper, the least attention to the cultural efforts of South Viet Nam can boil down to a few educational activities, a few school textbooks full of errors and contradictions, and some compilations from which all attempt at research is absent.

"Private individuals in small and poor countries never have enough facilities to engage in large-scale works. What about the governments? Alas, the governments which have succeeded each other in Salmon have never cared about culture."

"Nobody could have thought the South would one day begin research on the history of our civilization, geography, culture so as to put an end to the confusion now prevailing in school documents and textbooks. The Committee for the Standardization of Language and Script has not even begun work, perhaps because it is thought that guns are enough for national survival, and that entanglement from national traditions is of no importance. When we moved south (following the Geneva Agreements of 1954—Ed.) it took us a great deal of trouble to bring with us ancient and precious cultural documents and artifacts.

"We had thought a broad and deep movement of research would start on the strength of those documents. Alas, those precious things just lay forlorn for the past ten years and more gradually destroyed by humidity and insects. The South has never had any thing like a cultural foundation."

## Military Operations

(Continued from page 8)

In Ben Tre province, a American brigades and puppet battalions were routed. Between September 12 and 18, the enemy lost 1,600 men (1,300 G.I.s) killed, wounded or captured, 24 ships sunk or burnt and 5 aircraft downed. On September 24 and 25, the P.L.A.F. in that province sank or buried 6 other ships (one over 100 metres long) and destroyed six 205 mm guns.

In My Tho province, 3 battalions of the P.L.A.F. were routed in Chau Giay district on September 19; 200 men put out of action. The following day, 200 G.I.s were wiped out in a violent artillery onslaught of Binh Dinh base, 6 km west of My Tho.

On the night of September 22, the enemy at Soo Trang town was harassed: "pacification" teams were wiped out, 2 puppet companies decimated, many aircraft destroyed in an airfield whose runway was put out of order. In the Western High Plateaux, fighting continued at

5000 ft altitude.

Finally, near the 17th parallel north of Quang Tri province, between September 17 and 25, the enemy lost 3,550 men put out of action, (including 2,000 G.I.s) 30 planes including 11 shot down, 63 tanks and armoured cars and two 105mm cannons destroyed or damaged.

## More Puppet Troops and G.I.s' Rebellions and Mutinies in South Viet Nam

BESIDES the 40 mutinies and rebellions already reported in the period from May to August (see Viet Nam Courier No 18) others have taken place since the end of August, some of which are mentioned below for the U.S. Command, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

Thus, on August 23 last when puppet Ranger Battalion 39 stationed in Da Nang came into contact with the P.L.A.F., a group of its soldiers deserted the post and crossed over to the side of the patriots after turning their weapons against the traitors, destroying a M-113 armored car, killing and wounding 34 enemy troops.

On September 8 in Da Nang, patriotic elements in the puppet army killed a N.C.O. of the supply unit, 4 drivers, 4 drivers in a post in the second district. The same day in Vinh Long many soldiers of the 1st Division of the province refused to go on a rescue mission to Tay Ninh where the P.L.A.F. were inflicting heavy losses on the U.S. commando troops. The U.S. command then decided to send Ranger Battalion 43 in their place. On learning this news, the whole battalion protested and refused to muster. After

battalion deputy commander shot himself in front of his men, instead of giving way to the Yankee masters.

The mutiny continued to spread in the puppet army. In point that in its issue of September 20, the *New York Times* admitted that despite harsh disciplinary measures, numerous deserters in South Viet Nam had continually been growing.

Neither were U.S. units spared by the movement. *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported that in August last, at least 500 G.I.s at Binh Dinh mutinied and joined the P.L.A.F. ranks, bringing with them 50 firearms.

On September 8 in Da Nang, patriotic elements in the Melong delta, 3 companies of puppet regional troops refused to go and rescue a unit chopped to pieces at My Loc village.

On August 26, at Vinh Long, in the Melong delta, the U.S. commando troops refused to go owing to the refusal of the American garrison at Cai Lay, to take up arms and deploy according to the command's plan.

On September 19, 6 G.I.s, flushed into a riverbank, preferred to jump into the river near My Tho than obey their officers' orders. On September 22, an operation was carried out in the My Tho area to call off the sweep of the American garrison at Cai Lay, to take up arms and deploy according to the command's plan.

7

# ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

DURING last week, the P.L.A.F. continued to attack the enemy in many areas. Thus operations *Giai Phong* (Freeing) were reported. On September 29, Saigon was again pelted by P.L.A.F. artillery. On September 26, 27, and 28 the patriots attacked at least 10 enemy targets including 3 posts in Tay Ninh province which sustained the "most violent bombardment in the war" (2,000 shells according to Western agencies), and a coup de main was mounted on the U.S. vehicle park in Cholon, Saigon twin city.

The P.L.A.F. were very active in Thuong Dac region, 40km southwest of Da Nang, where many posts were overrun and a big enemy's force intercepted. The coastal provinces of Central Trung Bo remained the site of fierce fighting where a puppet battalion was wiped out near Qui Nhon.

In the Mekong delta, Ben Tre province distinguished itself again with the destruction of 6 U.S. war vessels on September 24 and 25.

## SAIGON AREA:

**— The city was now fully bombarded on September 29.**

**— 10 ships and 4 barges (including 80,000-ton barges) sunk or damaged assistance of Saigon.**

**— Three important enemy posts in Tay Ninh province heavily plastered by P.L.A.F. artillery.**

On September 20, many shells fired by the R.A.A.F. hit Saigon again. In *Giai Phong* Press Agency said: in the district of Thieu's residence and the puppet National Assembly building and the harbour of the 4th dis-

trict where many storehouses were hit. The previous day in a district of Cholon, a self-defence unit of a military vehicle park and destroyed three vehicles, American sources revealed.

Besides between Saigon and the sea, in the network of waterways formed by the Dong Nai, the Dong, Tranh and Long Tinh to the north, a bandit unit including a tank and a cargo-boat of 10,000 tons each, were damaged or sunk 17-30 kilometres southeast of the city within 16 days beginning September 2.

Northwest of Saigon, in Tay Ninh province, the P.L.A.F. on September 26 struck at three enemy posts including Ca Tam, 110 km from Saigon. Western agencies

# Military Operations

reported that 2,000 shells had been slammed into these targets, making this the "most violent bombardment in the war". The next day, near Ca Tam, 110 km past triads wiped out a Ranger Company and a signal platoon. Another American company met with the same fate on September 22 in an ambush 10km northeast of Tay Ninh, on the road to Ca Tam.

Thus within the last six weeks, Tay Ninh remained the most difficult battle field for the Yankees who lost a daily average of 400 men, about 40 vehicles, 4 cannons or mortars and 2 planes or helicopters.

## CENTRAL TRUNG BO:

**Vain efforts of the enemy to clear Thuong Dac, southwest of Da Nang, invested by the P.L.A.F. since September 23, 1968.**

**A puppet battalion wiped out in Qui Nhon region.**

**GIAI PHONG** Press Agency reported that on September 28, the P.L.A.F. had assaulted many enemy posts at Theosog Due

a district capital and a sub-sector C.P., commanding an important valley 40 km southwest of Da Nang. After a 3 minutes engagement, a 3 companies of the 1st, the headquarters of the patriotic forces followed a few hours later by another post. Meanwhile, the airfield came under fire and the entire centre was stormed by patriotic infantrymen.

All enemy counter-attacks were repelled one after another, round-to-round. The following days, despite massive intervention of aircraft (B-57s, fighter-bombers and armed helicopters) the P.L.A.F. harassed the positions day and night, forcing the villages in the periphery of the town were under the people's control. On October 1, a US regiment of Regiment 2 left behind from Saigon to try and clear the place was besieged and decimated and forced to call for help. The battle is still raging in this sector.

**Newest Tam Ky provincial capital, an American armoured column was interrupted on September 24; 4 tanks were destroyed, many others damaged, and 2 choppers downed. The same day, near Tam Phuoc, 22 km southwest of Tam Ky, 6 tanks were destroyed and about one hundred enemy soldiers put out of action. 20 km to the northwest of Gia Lai base, on the night of September 21 the P.L.A.F. wiped out an American artillery company and destroyed 8 105mm and 155mm cannons.**

**In An Dien, 10km southwest of Quang Ngai town, the patriotic forces completely won the counter-attack on September 26 a puppet company and seized all its arms and ammunition.**

**Near Qui Nhan, capital of Binh Dinh province, in the engagements unfolding on September 23, 23 and 24 southwest of Phu My, the enemy launched an assault (Regiment 2, a regiment a puppet Division 2) and 350 men including the Battalion commander. It was the seventh battalion of the enemy wiped out with its commander in Central Trung Bo which killed, wounded or captured 16,700 adverse troops, put out of action 6 enemy battalions, 1 anti-aircraft regiment, a multi-battalion unit and 9 battalions. Meanwhile the patriotic forces destroyed, damaged or downed 120 planes, 100 tanks and 200 vehicles including 70 armoured vehicles, destroyed 248 camps in which civilians were concentrated and liberated 118,000 people.**

## OTHER THEATRES OF OPERATIONS:

**— 30 ships sunk or burnt in Ben Tre province (Mekong delta).**

**— In Duc Lac sector: 4 American companies wiped out or decimated in the last week of September.**

**— North of Quang Tri province, 3,500 enemy soldiers put out of action in 22 days.**

**F**ROM September 14 to 19, a wave of generalized attacks was launched by the P.L.A.F. on the 7 provinces in the Mekong delta in which the enemy had over 3,000 men put out of action (including 1,600). 10 ships burnt or sunk and 3 aircraft downed or destroyed, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

(Continued page 7)

## IN A HAMLET CLOSE TO SAIGON

**S**TANDING on the bank of the Long Giang River, you see flowers floating in the sky over Saigon, Hiep Hoa, Hau Nghia, Hiep Hoa, Ben Luc, Tan An and other places. Projected on the caltrops of the ground, the traps on American bases. On the ground, although the season had not yet come for the dry suitable to be burned, the ground of burning, reflecting the light of the river. The light made it possible for me to recognize Ap Giang, a small hamlet in Long An province, and share its people's immense joy.

"At dusk the noise had begun:

bamboo canes, thin canes, empty bamboo stalks, rattled over the vast sugar cane fields, mingled with the hubbub of people calling, running, and shouting through megaphones.

If a man could stand still a little longer, the megaphone he would be able to get an idea of the bustle going on in Ap Giang and the turbulent revolutionary atmosphere prevailing there.

It stood less than half a kilometer away; yet the megaphones went right on urging the people to the places where bonfires were to be lit, the old bridge, the newest along highways 8 and 10. There, since nightfall, the people of Ap Giang, bringing along balls of cooked rice, bamboo baskets, picks and shot-

gets, dynamite charges, and bombs, had set to destroy enemy communications. Each bonfire marked a stretch of road being cut in pieces. At dusk, a few rifle shots had been heard, but this did not last very long. A peasant recounted what had happened: the rounds had been fired by a platoon of puppet soldiers headed by a man named Nhi. But Nhi's wife was working on the road, she stopped out, came right up to Nhi and stood defiantly with arms akimbo facing her husband. "Don't shoot, Nhi eventually gave way, and soon another bonfire was lit."

Walking along the road I remembered the fierce resistance put up by the Ap Giang people in 1959 to protect their sugar cane fields against enemy destruction. Now as then, the fields, stretching over the immense expanse, dotted with bomb craters. Through the cuts made in the banks of the canals, flowed water from the rivers. Here and there flickering heronrie lights, and heard the noise of machetes working on hard wood. Some people were coughing, apparently old people. Coming closer, I saw white uniforms and unwound foreheads, and the sight moved me to tears. Elderly men and women were building bridges across canals

and rods in the roads, for their "children" in the Liberation army to move more easily in the direction of Saigon. Spreading rice husks on the mud to make the paths less slippery and throwing bridges across the streams. A woman who was the faith of god devolved upon the "white-coated army". Old people were crowding in to volunteer for revolutionary work and an officer had tasks to set up to distribute tasks. An elderly woman who was floundering in the water trying to pull up a pillar for the bridge said to another, "If Uncle Ton is still alive, he would like to go to Uncle Lam to convince Uncle Lam, the Front secretary, that I am perfectly fit for work. Ah, how lucky young people are! They don't have to beg for assignments! They have opportunities and plenty of opportunities to fight the Vanzi!"

That night, before the attack on the enemy sector of Hau Nghia, I took a stroll along the canal, crossed the newly-constructed bridge, and in the direction of Saigon I saw the lights in the sky over the city had become even denser. Enemy artillery was firing on the battlefield. Those hundred shells fell in the territory of Ap Giang; its "share" was small. But there were none the less scores of people in the fields. Amidst the roar of the guns,

people were arguing impassionately. About a hundred had volunteered to join the reinforcements for Saigon, but more were asking to go. A quote: "We go because we are told to do so, but we are not asked anything, not in offering sacrifice. People came and went, talked, discussed. Men who had just been wounded weapons strutting about, humming a folk-song, then abruptly scuttling around a marshy area, or collecting a bumper crop of beans or of sugar cane, or talked about the high price he had got for his poultry at the market.

But now the sound of gunfire had burst all around. The people of Ap Giang, whether belonging to a military formation or not, stood ready for combat. Flares were drifting over Saigon, Hau Nghia, Da Nang, Hiep Hoa, Hau Nghia. On the ground the flames of the people's struggle were consuming the enemy. The sound of drums and tocsins was calling on the people of Ap Giang to surge up and join the hurricane which was sweeping the aggressors away...